

Testimony on Education Plan

Joint Education Committees – Special Session - May 10, 2007

I started teaching at the University of Montana fall quarter, 1969. That 1970 Academic Year, Montana resident students paid \$180 tuition for the entire year! Twenty years later students paid \$975 for Academic Year 1990. If tuition had increased at the rate of inflation they would have been paying \$606, so tuition was already increasing faster than the rate of inflation.

However, there were drastic increases in tuition throughout the 1990's on up to present. If students were paying the original \$180 adjusted for inflation, they would be paying \$935 this academic year. However, Montana resident students enrolled this year are paying \$3,686 in tuition alone, a four-fold increase over inflation, and \$4,978 in tuition plus mandatory fees.

Housing, textbooks, meals, parking fees, etc. have also gone up dramatically. Today, I know that many Montana young people have been kept from getting post-secondary education. And those that do, are taking on immense debt, unless their parents pay their way. They are taking on debt at the worst time in their lives - when they are starting in the work force, getting married and raising families.

This was not the case when I went to school and it wasn't the case when I started teaching at UM in 1969. Students then, and the next 20 years, could work summers and 10-15 hours per week during the school year and pay their entire way through school. It is a shame that we as Montanans, no longer consider education a public good. Freezing tuition at current levels will help stem the hemorrhaging facing our young people. The "Best and Brightest" scholarship program in this bill gives hope and help to some of our young people who might not otherwise be able to attend our colleges and universities.

If we are to be competitive in a global economy it is important that we support our young people through a quality education system, from kindergarten through adult education. Please support the education plan before you.

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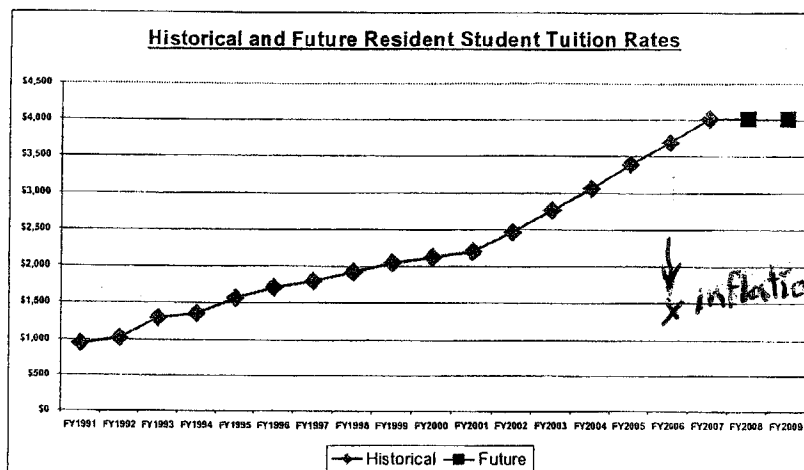
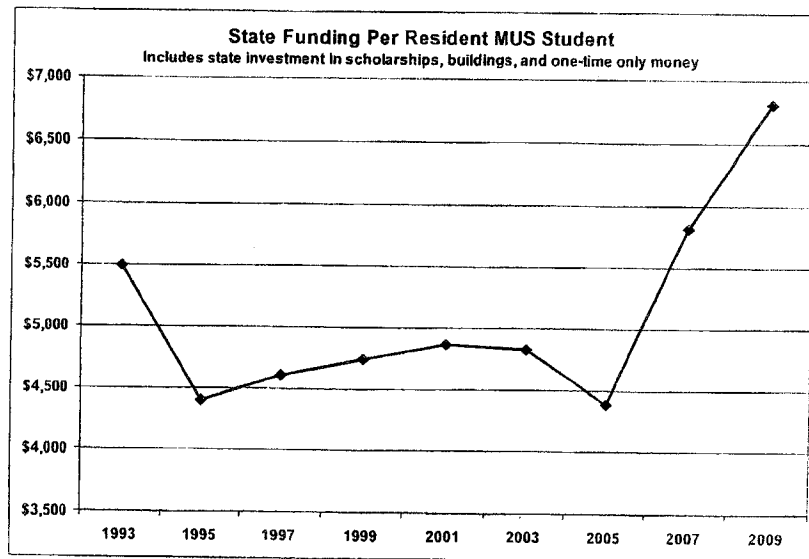
Annual Tuition and Mandatory Fees -- Full-time, Undergraduate, Lower Division (Freshman)
Resident and Nonresident
The University of Montana - Missoula
AY 1960, AY 1970, AY 1980 to AY 2007

	Tuition plus Mandatory Fees (\$)		Tuition Only (Tuition Fee or Incidental Fee) (\$)	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident
AY 1960	222.00	462.00	90.00	330.00
AY 1970	399.00	1,066.50	180.00	847.50
AY 1980	625.50	1,993.50	288.00	1,584.00
AY 1981	633.00	2,001.00	288.00	1,584.00
AY 1982	747.00	2,115.00	378.00	1,674.00
AY 1983	825.00	2,265.00	432.00	1,800.00
AY 1984	870.00	2,418.00	486.00	1,962.00
AY 1985	936.00	2,628.00	540.00	2,160.00
AY 1986	1,059.00	2,823.00	648.00	2,340.00
AY 1987	1,231.50	3,049.50	792.00	2,538.00
AY 1988	1,237.50	3,055.50	792.00	2,538.00
AY 1989	1,249.50	3,067.50	792.00	2,538.00
AY 1990	1,447.50	3,520.50	975.00	2,964.00
AY 1991	1,473.90	3,546.90	975.00	2,964.00
AY 1992	1,587.90	4,038.90	1,017.00	3,384.00
AY 1993 (a)	1,892.40	5,616.40	1,288.00	4,928.00
AY 1994	2,033.40	6,009.40	1,358.00	5,250.00
AY 1995	2,251.30	6,311.30	1,548.00	5,524.00
AY 1996 (b)	2,414.50	6,561.70	1,708.80	5,784.00
AY 1997	2,484.50	6,733.70	1,774.80	5,952.00
AY 1998	2,630.10	7,192.50	1,843.20	6,333.60
AY 1999	2,776.60	7,676.20	1,963.20	6,790.80
AY 2000	2,967.30	8,076.90	2,048.40	7,086.00
AY 2001	3,065.60	8,394.80	1,068.60	6,325.80
AY 2002	3,514.80	9,526.80	2,415.60	8,355.60
AY 2003 (c)	3,998.00	10,771.00	2,872.50	9,584.10
AY 2004	4,104.00	11,474.40	2,968.80	10,268.00
AY 2005	4,377.00	12,367.80	3,220.80	11,139.60
AY 2006	4,711.50	13,427.10	3,470.40	12,114.00
AY 2007	4,977.50	14,483.90	3,686.40	13,120.80

Sources: 1960, 1970 -- University of Montana Catalog 1959-60, 1969-70, page 15.
1981 -- University of Montana Catalog 1980-81, page 282
1980, 1982 forward -- UM annual tuition and fees schedules

- (a) Conversion to semester system (from quarters) effective Fall 1992.
(b) Missoula College of Technology merged with UM prior year; reported with UM effective Fall 1995.
(c) Includes \$ 114.50 surcharge -- \$ 2.50 (fall) and \$ 7.00 (spring) per credit for a typical undergrad load of 15 credits per semester.

MU University System



K-12 Funding

